

**HOWARD KIMELDORF INTERVIEWS FOR *REDS OR RACKETS*?**  
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**REINO ERKKILA OF ILWU LOCALS 10 AND 34**

**INTERVIEWEE:** REINO ERKKILA

**INTERVIEWERS:** HOWARD KIMELDORF

**SUBJECTS:** JOSEPH RYAN; HARRY BRIDGES; SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA; AFL; CIO; MECHANIZATION AND MODERNIZATION AGREEMENT; WOBBLIES; SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA; FRANK LITTLE MURDER; BUTTE, MONTANA; ANACONDA MINING COMPANY; 1934 STRIKE; JAMES KEARNEY; WARTIME ON THE DOCKS; PORT CHICAGO EXPLOSION; CONSERVATISM OR LIBERALISM IN THE ILWU; PENSIONS

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[00:00:00] **HOWARD KIMELDORF:** Before we get started, why don't you spell out your name so if there's any problems—

[00:00:09] **REINO ERKKILA:** Reino Erkkila, Reino, R-E-I-N-O. And Erkkila, E-R-K-K-I-L-A.

[00:00:16] **HOWARD:** Okay so why don't we start with you sort of just explaining how you into the Waterfront, how you became a longshoremen.

[00:00:22] **REINO:** Well started in the—started longshoring in May of 1935, at that time, I was attending junior college in [College of San Mateo] and my father was a longshoreman, and he was injured and he was off the job—he was going to be off the job for a couple of months, so the union gave me a temporary permit to work there, as a permit man, which would've covered my summer vacation. That temporary permit ran into 41 years, I never did leave after I started there, yeah.

And then I retired in May—in August of 1975. I had retired. Ten years prior to retiring, I had transferred to the Ships Clerks Union, Local 34 of the ILWU from Local 10. Local 34 being a sister union.

[00:01:27] **HOWARD:** When did your father start on the Waterfront?

[00:01:29] **REINO:** My father started on the Waterfront in 1922.

[00:01:33] **HOWARD:** ‘Twenty-two?

[00:01:33] **REINO:** Yes. And he retired in 1950.

[00:01:40] **HOWARD:** Did he ever talk to you about the union situation? The lack of unions during the ‘22 to ‘35 period?

[00:01:45] **REINO:** Oh, of course he did, yes. We used to discuss the long hours that he worked and prior to the union, he could go to work on Monday, and not come home till Wednesday—worked right straight through. Seventy- two hours at a time. Very often.

[00:02:05] **HOWARD:** Did they ever talk about the blue book union?

[00:02:07] **REINO:** Yes, he talked about the blue book union, and a fellow named [?Sharkey?] who was a business agent in the blue book union, and the way he described it to me, the men would—when the word got around that Sharkey was coming in would disappear so—because if they hadn't paid their dues, or whatever, he would bump them off the job. Sharkey had that authority.

[00:02:33] **HOWARD:** Did you ever hear of the blue book union acting as a union or a responsible union?

[00:02:37] **REINO:** No, no never. Never. No I didn't. Not as a responsible union, no.

[00:02:42] **HOWARD:** Why do you suppose the men tolerated it as long as they did? Instead of getting a better union or something like that?

[00:02:50] **REINO:** Well, not being there at the time, just talking with my father and other friends who were longshoremen—see, why they tolerated it, I don't know. My father, we came from Butte, Montana where he worked in the mines, and he was a hard worker all his life—much harder, he worked much harder than I ever worked. And he wasn't afraid of hard work, he had to keep his family fed, there was three children and his wife, and he managed to do pretty well—for those days. So I don't know why they didn't rebel. It was only in 1917—I think, from what I read—that the union lost their red book, which was a union controlled by the members I

think. I don't recall whether it was affiliated with the ILA [International Longshoremen's Association] or not, but it was called the red book union at that time.

[00:03:47] **HOWARD:** Yeah, that was the Riggers and Stevedores.

[00:03:49] **REINO:** Yes, Rigger—right. And then, the blue book took over for them. I think the year was around 1917 or 18—around the World War I area—Era.

[00:04:01] **HOWARD:** How many people came from the mining area, before? It seems to me there were a lot of them were formerly miners that ended up in the Waterfront.

[00:04:09] **REINO:** Well, in our case, my father worked in the mines in Butte, and I was then ten years old, and my brother was twelve years old, and he could see the only place that we could end up was in the mines. That was the only place that male children could get employment in Butte at that time. So he thought right away he'd want to, rather have us come to California where there might be more opportunities. On my mother's side, we had a—my mother's aunt was married to a longshoreman at that time, and that gave him connection with the Waterfront. That's where he started, working in the same gang with this in-law of ours.

[00:05:05] **HOWARD:** Did your father belong to a union in Butte?

[00:05:07] **REINO:** Oh yes, Western Federation of Miners, I guess.

[00:05:10] **HOWARD:** Did you know, that was led by the Wobblies. Did he know that? Did he care?

[00:05:14] **REINO:** We knew and we supported them. All his life he was a Wobbly. In fact, through our—my first experience, my first labor experience, which I like, relate very often was when Frank Little, the organizer for the Wobblies, was strung up on a railroad trestle in Butte, and dragged—it was about 1917 or 18 around that time, there was a strike in the mines. And Frank Little was strung up by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company goons, and then dragged through the streets of Butte behind an automobile. Then when they had the funeral for him, my father rented a horse and buggy—first we marched, and then we joined the funeral court with a horse and buggy to the cemetery of Frank Little's funeral. That was my first—what I consider my first labor experience. I was about five or six years at the time.

[00:06:18] **HOWARD:** And you remember all that?

[00:06:19] **REINO:** I remember vividly, yes. The funeral. Have been reading about the—hearing talk about Frank Little would come to Butte as an organizer, I believe, for the Wobblies.

[00:06:31] **HOWARD:** Was your father an organizer?

[00:06:33] **REINO:** No he was a work—he was a rank-and-file worker and he supported the Wobblies all his life and many of our friends were all Wobblies at that time.

[00:06:45] **HOWARD:** What an interesting background.

How about on the Waterfront? Did he ever talk about the legacy of the Wobblies on the Waterfront? I know they weren't there that much but—

[00:06:54] **REINO:** At the time when we came here, Wobblies—in '22, early '20s—the Wobblies were not a power as far as I know. And I know that he didn't speak about them here. But then I had other relatives, in my wife's family who were Wobblies in the lumber camps and timber, the timber wolves we'd call them.

[00:07:20] **HOWARD:** So then, your first working experience on the Waterfront was in 1935?

[00:07:24] **REINO:** 'Thirty-five, yes.

[00:07:26] **HOWARD:** Came here a year after the big strike—

[00:07:29] **REINO:** No.

[00:07:29] **HOWARD:** No?

[00:07:29] **REINO:** No, my father was in the strike.

[00:07:31] **HOWARD:** Oh he was in the strike?

[00:07:32] **REINO:** Oh yes. He started in '22 and I started in '35.

[00:07:37] **HOWARD:** Okay. Did he ever talk about the strike? He must have, the '34 strike?

[00:07:41] **REINO:** Oh yes. I participated in a way, by this—I was going to San Mateo going to a junior college, and they were recruiting strikebreakers from amongst the students there. And I discouraged them with some liberal professors there who supported our stand with other longshoremen's children attending the school. We discouraged anyone the we knew from going down as a strike breaker.

[00:08:08] **HOWARD:** I didn't know they recruited from down there, in San Mateo.

[00:08:10] **REINO:** Oh they did it in all the colleges.

[00:08:11] **HOWARD:** Did they?

[00:08:11] **REINO:** They tried all the colleges around here.

[00:08:14] **HOWARD:** Was that pretty much a working-class college?

[00:08:16] **REINO:** It was a small college where—no tuition and everything there were mostly working class people and San Francisco [California] didn't have a two-year college at the time, so people from San Francisco had to attend there. And of course there were some wealthy people there too from the peninsula.

[00:08:39] **HOWARD:** What about the '34 strike? What were your impressions that you got from your father?

[Break in recording]

We were talking about the 1934 strike—I guess the basic sort of questions I had is how did the men see it? Was it simply a strike to basically gain recognition or was it something more significant than that?

[00:08:58] **REINO:** Gain union recognition, and with union recognition came the other benefits, such as shorter working hours was one of the primary things. As I said earlier, I watched Father working from Monday to Wednesday morning before he came on. I remember lying in bed and he didn't have an automobile for transportation, and he had to use public transportation and I'd wait for him to come home very often in the early, late twenties. Especially with those long shifts. And the casual—and the injury rate was high, he was injured several times. Safety precautions weren't as adhered to as they are now. We didn't have any safety rules so to speak of, to my knowledge.

[00:09:54] **HOWARD:** One of the questions I'm interested about the '34 strike is the role of radicals in it because various radical groups claimed that that strike was their baby, pretty much. Do you have any feelings about that? Did the men have any sense of the activities of radicals and communists and groups like that?

[00:10:12] **REINO:** Well, see not being—personally participating in the union functions and those—during the strike, I can't answer all those things, but only from hearsay, that there—and after I went into union, they were—the union membership as a whole responded to the strike call. Progressives, militants, radicals and conservatives, everyone was—it was solidarity as they have nowadays. It was that then.

[00:10:54] **HOWARD:** You came on the Waterfront in '35.

[00:10:56] **REINO:** Right.

[00:10:57] **HOWARD:** What were conditions like in '35?

[00:10:59] **REINO:** Well they were better than they had been previously, of course. But there—I was a permit man so we just had to take what was left, we didn't get any choice of jobs. We'd have to work the distasteful tasks like work fishmeal ships, banana boats, and the [SS] Harvard and the [SS] Yale, which was a coastwise ship that ran between here [San Francisco] and Los Angeles with passengers. And it was a four hour job, two hours. And there was no—the minimum was two hours at the time, so we progressed a great deal with after the '34 strike, where the minimum now is eight hours. And at that time it was two hours and there was—even although we had the hiring hall, they could call the gang into the hall at seven o'clock in the morning and not have any work for them and they'd go home without any pay and then they could have ordered a gang back at eleven o'clock again and go home without any pay. But those things were all gradually eliminated.

[00:12:10] **HOWARD:** What about the work stoppages that took place after the '34 settlement came down? I know there was a number of work stoppages over sling-load limits and gang sizes and things like that. Did you ever see those and participate in them?

[00:12:26] **REINO:** Yes I did and as an officer of the union, I promoted some of them myself in later years even, primarily when the safety was involved. And then of course we had to resort to arbitration, but after '34, the importance was still trying to get more than the maximum load. We had to sling—we had to sling first thing as we had sling-load limits. They'd want more than 20 sacks—it was 18 sacks on a load, they'd like to get 20

and some foremen or superintendents—whoever they were, would try to get by with it. And canned goods. And of course we had a contract at that time which spelled out the maximum loads, even up to the amount of canned goods on a load, the size of the canned goods 48 cases to a load, would spell out a load of canned goods, which was close to the 1800 pound limit, and they would try to get more on it at times, but the union wouldn't go along with it, and they managed to keep the load limits strong.

[00:13:48] **HOWARD:** That's a question. Had the union ever try and limit the work stoppages that were going on after thirty-four or was the leadership always supportive of the rank-and-file or do you remember?

[00:14:02] **REINO:** After '35 when I started work—yes the leadership—the business agents were real activists in the union and they supported the stand of the men in most instances. I remember one time, I was working partners with my father and the gang in the hull of the ship and we were loading scrap iron. And some dispute occurred, and I don't know exactly what the dispute was, but of course at that time we were also having the dispute about loading scrap iron to Japan because they were fighting with China and our union had taken a stand against it. But of course we had to load a lot of contractually. And I remember at this one instance, we had some kind of work stoppage, I don't recall exactly what it was about. And Bridges, although he was not a local officer at the time, he was International President, he came down to the hold of ship to check it over, in the same hatch that I was working in, but I think—we did continue the job after a stoppage for an hour or two.

[00:15:22] **HOWARD:** What did you think of the scrap iron beef? When they set up the picket lines? Did you remember that very much?

[00:15:28] **REINO:** I remember that time. It only affected—if you were happening to go on a job where scrap iron was being loaded, then of course we tried—we respected them to a degree, until we're forced either by arbitration or union officers reached agreement and we had to load it—we did load a lot of scrap iron. I had some pictures in this book here, loading the scrap iron the old ways, if you're interested in seeing it.

[00:15:59] **HOWARD:** Did the men ever talk about the union stand on that question? Was it a matter of controversy or did people pretty much accept the decision of the leadership to not load scrap iron at that time?

[00:16:11] **REINO:** Repeat that again?

[00:16:12] **HOWARD:** Well, I guess I'm wondering what did men think when the picket line was thrown up against scrap iron and did they discuss it all?

[00:16:20] **REINO:** Oh yes. They did and most of the men wanted to support it, but they knew they couldn't carry it on forever, and we did load the scrap iron eventually.

[00:16:31] **HOWARD:** Okay. That brings us up to the war period, did you serve in the military during the war?

[00:16:39] **REINO:** I did not, no.

[00:16:40] **HOWARD:** You were on the Waterfront?

[00:16:40] **REINO:** I was on the Waterfront and was chief dispatcher for the local here for 19—for about two-and-half years. 1943 through 1945. And we increased our—the men on the Waterfront from about 4,000 to 10,000 at that time.

[00:17:00] **HOWARD:** In Local 10?

[00:17:00] **REINO:** Local 10.

[00:17:02] **HOWARD:** That's a tremendous increase.

[00:17:03] **REINO:** Yes, it was. We had around 300 some-odd gangs, whereas normally we had around 180 gangs.

[00:17:11] **HOWARD:** So it went from 4,000 to about 10,000 around the war—

[00:17:14] **REINO:** Close to 10,000, yes.

[00:17:15] **HOWARD:** And 180 gangs to—?

[00:17:18] **REINO:** To over 300. In fact, at one time there was a lack of work in Portland [Oregon] , and they sent about 10 gangs of men to work out of our hall down here.

[00:17:29] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[00:17:30] **REINO:** Portland Local did.

[00:17:34] **HOWARD:** Longshoremen were draft-exempt. Is that correct?

[00:17:38] **REINO:** It was considered an essential industry at the time, but a lot of our single—I was married and I had one child and another one on the way, so that gave me a family status also. But a lot of our single longshoremen went into service, whether they volunteered or were drafted, I don't know. It depended a lot where your draft board was and how short of man-power that particular draft board was at that time. If you lived in an area that had a lot of single men, and the family men in the area could ride it through. I passed classification, I remember I was 3A, which was a family and essential industry at the time.

[00:18:27] **HOWARD:** So you were real low on the priority.

[00:18:29] **REINO:** Yes, I didn't worry I'd get a call at any time.

[00:18:33] **HOWARD:** Do you have any estimation—if I'd ask you what proportion of the men in Local Ten went into the military? Give me a wild figure. Ten percent or more?

[00:18:47] **REINO:** Now, 10 percent of what?

[00:18:49] **HOWARD:** Of Local 10's membership.

[00:18:50] **REINO:** I know, but what figure of membership?

[00:18:53] **HOWARD:** That's right, I guess we're talking about the 4,000 members.

[00:18:55] **REINO:** Yeah, I would say 4,000. I would say easily 10 percent, probably more even.

[00:19:00] **HOWARD:** More than that?

[00:19:01] **REINO:** I could say that yes.

[00:19:02] **HOWARD:** What you estimate then, I know it's hard to guess.

[00:19:05] **REINO:** I would say at least—you should have asked Bulcke that question, he was President of the Local at war time and they had a program on where they wrote—the union had regular communication with all the soldiers and all of the people in the service. The union had sent them monthly notice—one a month, I think they'd send them notices about their activities and what was going on.

[00:19:35] **HOWARD:** Huh. I didn't know that. I saw a lot of correspondents, persona letters between servicemen and men in the union, but you think there was a monthly newsletter?

[00:19:43] **REINO:** There was a—they had this girl working in the office and one of her jobs was to communicate with the servicemen. I know Bulcke, if you ever see Bulcke before he leaves, you could check with him on that. Because he was instrumental in handling a lot of that.

[00:20:00] **HOWARD:** So you would say upwards of 10 percent?

[00:20:07] **REINO:** I would say upwards of 10 percent. Between 10 and 20 percent I would say.

[00:20:12] **HOWARD:** And they were mostly single, as far as you can recall.

[00:20:15] **REINO:** Some of them were family men too I guess—it all depended on where your draft board was located and how they would have to fill their quotas. And a lot of them went into the Merchant Marine [civilian mariners] too, a lot of them being—having sea experience, many of them went into the Merchant Marine. Many of them became officers of the Merchant Marine and returned back to Waterfront after the war.

[00:20:39] **HOWARD:** What about the longshore battalions? Do you know anything about them?

[00:20:42] **REINO:** Well, that's where many of our members went, into the longshore—into the longshore battalions.

[00:20:48] **HOWARD:** And those were what?

[00:20:53] **REINO:** They did longshore work and sea, in the foreign ports, wherever—if there was—from what I, having talked to them, not being involved myself. But many of them, after the landings were made, the port was taken, they were right in there with the freighters and discharging cargo, and driving winches, and other equipment. Whatever they were experienced in handling cargo, bulk cargo by hand. Actual longshore work.



[00:21:25] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you a question, it just occurred to me, 10 to 20 percent of the labor force—for that figure we'll take it as a ballpark figure—who served in the military. It was an all-male labor force. It doesn't seem like to many people were drafted out of it then, compared to other industries—

[00:21:40] **REINO:** See, now I can't tell you whether my figures are true.

[00:21:44] **HOWARD:** Sure.

[00:21:44] **REINO:** I could be absolutely wrong on that.

[00:21:46] **HOWARD:** Yeah, but just looking at other industries in the Bay area. This is a real dumb question—did you have any idea of how disruptive the work force was in longshore versus somewhere else? In other words, it seemed like it was fairly stable.

[00:22:01] **REINO:** It was quite stable, but of course we had to build up our man power because that's when I say we increased up to 10—close to 10,000 men here in this port alone.

[00:22:14] **HOWARD:** Now where did these new recruits come from?

[00:22:16] **REINO:** A lot of them came from the Gulf [Coast] . The Gulf. A lot of them were experienced longshoremen from the Gulf.

[00:22:23] **HOWARD:** Were they mostly Black or. . . ?

[00:22:25] **REINO:** The ones that came from the Gulf, yes.

[00:22:28] **HOWARD:** And how—what percentage do you think came from the 6,000 that added onto the labor force here?

[00:22:34] **REINO:** I don't know. But in the '60s, our membership was practically 50-50. Fifty Black—50 percent Black and 50 percent white. So—and most of those came from the states, in the '60s were mostly those that came here from the Gulf states. And then we were down again to around 4,000 member in the '60s, maybe less even.

[00:23:11] **HOWARD:** So, the majority of the new people who came to the Waterfront industry came from the Gulf states and you said most of them were experienced longshoremen?

[00:23:21] **REINO:** Many of them. I can't really say how many, but many of them were. Many of them were. I would say most of them were. And several of them, I imagine, came here working the shipyards, and instead of ending up in the shipyards and ended on the Waterfront.

[00:23:37] **HOWARD:** Why do you think they were attracted to the ILWU? Especially the Black guys, do you have any idea?

[00:23:42] **REINO:** Oh, yeah sure, because they knew we were a democratic union and Blacks were equally treated in the local. The locals in San Francisco—I can only speak for San Francisco. I'm not going to try to

Speak for other locals that had their problems. But here they were welcome and integrated into the union and became officers of the union. Some of them—well now they're foreman and walking bosses and they were even, many years ago already.

[00:24:20] **HOWARD:** How did most of the white men, who'd been on the job for some time, react to the presence of large numbers of Blacks?

[00:24:28] **REINO:** At that time, there was no problem, at that time. The only problem I can occurred was seniority—seniority came into discussion. You had your meetings, and some of the Blacks, more vocal ones, wanted to drive winches—they thought they were being discriminated against, but everybody had to take their chance, whether you're white or Black. My way of thinking to get—to build up your seniority before you get promoted to skilled jobs, which was the way it eventually did end up. As they got the seniority, there was no discrimination, and they moved on to the skilled jobs. White and Black.

[00:25:16] **HOWARD:** I remember reading in a Pacific [Coast] Maritime Industry Board—I don't know if you remember it—Bulcke, Schmidt and others—and there was a question there, someone had suggested 75 percent of the gang bosses during the war in Local 10 for requesting all-white gangs. Did that ring a bell? That's one of the employer's doing.

[00:25:41] **REINO:** Who requested that?

[00:25:43] **HOWARD:** The employers were saying that about three-fourths of the gang bosses were requesting all white gangs from the hall—

[00:25:51] **REINO:** The employers were requesting all white gangs?

[00:25:53] **HOWARD:** Well, the employers claimed that gang bosses were requesting all white members—

[00:25:58] **REINO:** Members? Men into their gang?

[00:26:00] **HOWARD:** Yeah, something like that.

[00:26:01] **REINO:** No.

[00:26:02] **HOWARD:** No?

[00:26:02] **REINO:** No. I never heard of it.

The only thing is, even at one time, we tried to draft men into gangs. At the time I was a dispatcher. If we—see the Waterfront work was so, there was so much of it, men preferred the work off the plug board as we called it then, down the hall, because they could get more time off that way or work as much—depending on what your own desires and needs were. You wanted to work 30 days a month? You were able to. And gangs were rotated more or less. Although there was many of shortages of gangs and we had to work out a schedule where gangs had time off. So finally, you had to be an available—work or be available 20 days out of 30. It was the rule that

was set down between the union and the employer. It was labor relations. And it says that you had to work 20 out of 30, you had to compel the work 20 out of 30.

And going back to draft men and gangs, some of the gangs were short of men because men preferred the work through the hall. So we tried—if a man was dispatched to a gang, he got a slip saying he was a member of that gang for at least 30 days. Well it didn't—that didn't work too well. It kind of fringed on the freedom the men were used to. So it was hard to enforce. Many of them didn't going into gangs as a result of it, and others, after being in a gang for a while, mutually agreed between the gang—I think—between the gang boss, back to the hall and things like that. But never have I heard anything about request for all-white gangs.

[00:27:55] **HOWARD:** And you were a dispatcher, you would know that.

[00:27:58] **REINO:** I was a dispatcher, I would know that yes.

[00:28:01] **HOWARD:** It was Frank Foisie if that name means anything. Do you remember him?

[00:28:04] **REINO:** Yeah, I remember him.

[00:28:04] **HOWARD:** He was the one that made that accusation.

[00:28:06] **REINO:** Oh, I can believe that.

[00:28:10] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you some questions about the gang during the war and their organization. Is it fair to say—on what you said now—that the gangs were fairly solid before the war, and then when the war came along, more guys left the gangs and worked off the plug board?

[00:28:27] **REINO:** Some gangs. Some gangs. Other gangs—depended on the foreman, his personality and the winch drivers he had, how qualified his gang was. Those gangs were usually filled up. And there were others what we used to call “foo-foo gangs”. It was gangs that the foreman couldn't hold the gang together, and he was there and didn't have a capable winch driver, couldn't hold them in the gang for long.

[00:28:59] **HOWARD:** Why was that the case? Why couldn't they hold it in the gang?

[00:29:02] **REINO:** It all depends on the foreman himself. The personality of the foreman. That's the way that I look at it.

[00:29:08] **HOWARD:** Can you explain that a little more? If he have a nice personality? If was he competent?

[00:29:15] **REINO:** Yes, he was a good rigger, he knew what he doing on the job, he went down in the hold of the ship to instruct the men. Some foreman would just hang over on deck and carry out their orders from there, so actually, a good foreman was right on the job. Not that the others weren't but they didn't have the knowledge. See, during the war, we'd have to make up gangs, we didn't—some men became foreman that normally wouldn't have been foreman.

[00:29:51] **HOWARD:** How many gangs were made up like that during the war?

[00:29:53] **REINO:** Well, at least from 180 to 300.

[00:29:57] **HOWARD:** Now, did the original 180 stay in-tact, or were those experienced guys shifted out to the other gangs?

[00:30:06] **REINO:** Some were. No, there was a constant turnover in membership and gangs—always has been. But some of the gangs were, well, let's put it—some of the gangs were ethnic gangs, I guess you could say. They were the Finnish foreman, he had all Finnish men in his gang. They were Slovenians, with Slovenians working in the gang. Yugoslavs working in the gangs.

[00:30:33] **HOWARD:** Gangs were almost like a little family?

[00:30:35] **REINO:** It was. It was 18 men during the war—16 men gang, 6 hold men, 6 dock men, 2 winch drivers, a jitney driver, and a foreman. I think it was about 16.

[00:30:48] **HOWARD:** Do you think that the—

[END PART ONE/BEGIN PART TWO]

—more during the war, as opposed to the pre-war period. And I'm concerned with whether or not there was more shifting of personnel among gangs during the war or during the pre-war—was there a difference at all?

[00:31:11] **REINO:** Yes, there was to this degree. During the war day gangs had to take a turn on nights. I think that I recall it— [day] had to go on nights for 30 days. Rotated. Because there weren't as many night gangs as they were day gangs and of course almost the work was almost equal—working around the clock and we had to shift day gangs to night. And that used to raise hell with the day gangs. Men would drop out and go to the hall, because they didn't want to work nights, they preferred working days because of their family life and various other personal reasons. But then there were night gangs and men that wanted to work nights. So they stayed in night gangs. Night gangs were usually pretty well filled up.

[00:32:03] **HOWARD:** They were?

[00:32:04] **REINO:** Yes, because those men wanted to work nights, and I think that they knew where they were going and see, the men were dispatched, while I was dispatcher, by radio. The gangs were dispatched by radio, whereas men on the hall had to make a physical appearance in the hall for an assignment.

[00:32:25] **HOWARD:** Now, why did they have the day gang work nights sometimes?

[00:32:28] **REINO:** So to supplement the night gangs, because we didn't have a sufficient amount of night gangs.

[00:32:35] **HOWARD:** Okay, so as a result, some people dropped out of the day gangs and went on—

[00:32:40] **REINO:** Out of—when they went on nights. On the plug for two weeks and then went to another day gang, and then if the gang went back on days, many of them went back to the gang, after their 30 day stint was over. The men would return to the gangs.

[00:32:56] **HOWARD:** Did that make the gang less of a family, sort of thing? Because guys were coming and going all the time? Or do you know?

[00:33:05] **REINO:** Well, yes it would've if they left the gang, but then they [the gang] might have filled up with some other men that stayed in the gang during the nights, and they would soon be a nucleus again. A family, as you say.

[00:33:28] **HOWARD:** Okay, so. Let me just get the sequence here then. In the pre-war period, gangs were fairly stable and you move into the war and for a number of reasons like they're shifting day gangs to night gangs and such.

[00:33:39] **REINO:** That was one of the reasons.

[00:33:41] **HOWARD:** Were there any other reasons?

[00:33:42] **REINO:** That was primarily the reason, other than that—see we never did shift the night gangs to days, they stayed nights because we needed them there, but we did put night gangs—day gangs to nights to increase the amount of night gangs. What was your question again?

[00:34:03] **HOWARD:** Well, I guess I'm just trying to see how stable the gangs were.

[00:34:06] **REINO:** They were stable, I would say they were stable.

[00:34:09] **HOWARD:** As stable as in the war period as they were before?

[00:34:11] **REINO:** Yes.

[00:34:12] **HOWARD:** Okay, even though there was this sort of shifting going on?

[00:34:16] **REINO:** Well, they were stable to this degree, those that were already organized. Of course some of the newer gangs were not as stable because the men weren't available that wanted to work in gangs. So they had to depend a lot on the hall for their—to fill out the gangs.

[00:34:34] **HOWARD:** Okay, it sounds to me like the gangs that were there before the war were fairly stable during the war?

[00:34:41] **REINO:** It was. They were, they were stable gangs, yes.

[00:34:42] **HOWARD:** And you had 6,000 new guys forming new gangs and those were always being shuffled around.

[00:34:47] **REINO:** Right.

[00:34:48] **HOWARD:** Okay, that's interesting to know.

The other question I have about the war—a set of questions concerns the push for productivity during the war and you know there was some talk—I mean Bridges, the whole Bridges' plan with cooperating with the employer and pushing real hard to get output and relaxing some of the work rules and things like that. What are your feelings about that? Were you aware that these things were happening?

[00:35:14] **REINO:** Oh yeah, they had a slogan back then, it was, “Keep it Moving.” Something like that. And of course there was drummed into bulletins, and dispatchers and publications. But I don't know whether that much affected—you know men have it—in those days, if I recollect, guys were pretty conscientious workers and they did it where—I think they would have done it even without the pushing, the promotions that went on about “Keep it Moving.” But I think that it was more of a slogan than it was an attempt to because I don't there was too much—to my knowledge—employers might have not been happy, but they were making money too. I think it was all government contract primarily, and so there was no great problems in that respect about productivity, to my knowledge.

[00:36:09] **HOWARD:** Did the men ever complain and say, “Hey the union isn't representing us,” or something? Did you ever hear those kinds of comments?

[00:36:15] **REINO:** No, no I didn't. Not during the war.

[00:36:22] **HOWARD:** And any gripe about the fact that there was sort of a speed-up going on or was there a speed-up going on?

[00:36:29] **REINO:** No, to my knowledge there was not a speed-up then. It was detective speed-up if there was an attempt at it. But what their griping was for time off. That was they were primarily interested in. Many of the men wanted more time off. And some of the gangs worked as much as 30 days straight. 40 days straight. You know without—and those were 10 hour days! And sometimes longer if the ship was finishing.

[00:37:01] **HOWARD:** So the major complaints then were really concerned with that the men wanted more time off?

[00:37:05] **REINO:** More time off and then—to tell you one thing that they weren't happy with, they thought that we should've been making more money. I think we got under the War Manpower Board [sic, Commission] , we got a nickel raise one year. I guess you probably checked into that already. Yes, so they were very unhappy with that nickel raise.

Oh, and let me explain one other thing about gangs. Some of the gangs—well, they worked different types of cargos. We had shoveling gangs that worked bulk cargoes, like lead up in Selby [California] and copra [dried coconut] and bulk cargoes. Those were men that was skilled in that particular cargo, and it was hard work—that was one of the hardest jobs, the shoveling, called shoveling at the—we had about, I don't know exactly how many we had, I guess we had about 10 to 12 night gangs which we called shoveling gangs and 10 or 12 were day gangs—but the same thing. But when there was no bulk cargo to be handled, they worked regular, general cargo as any other gang.

[00:38:26] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you a question, I was reading over some of the minutes of the [?Pacific Maritime Industry Board?] and they talked about something called, split gangs—do you know what those were?

[00:38:37] **REINO:** No, I don't know about split gangs.

[00:38:39] **HOWARD:** Something about six men on. . .

[00:38:40] **REINO:** Not short gangs?

[00:38:41] **HOWARD:** Maybe it was short gangs? What are short gangs?

[00:38:43] **REINO:** Go ahead, explain.

[00:38:44] **HOWARD:** Well, it was something about six men and six men, that's all I got out of it. And they were talking about assigning split gangs and the employers favored it and the union didn't. I couldn't figure out what was going on.

[00:38:56] **REINO:** I don't know either and I don't want to volunteer a guess on it because I sure don't know.

[00:39:00] **HOWARD:** What were short gangs?

[00:39:02] **REINO:** Well, they came after the war. Where they reduced the long gang to short gangs. It's the introduction of forklifts and more equipment so the dock men were eliminated. I think it was after the war that they came in, maybe.

[00:39:19] **HOWARD:** And when they cut back from 18 to 16 or something like that?

[00:39:23] **REINO:** It was from 16 to 12 in a gang.

[00:39:24] **HOWARD:** Twelve?

[00:39:25] **REINO:** Four dock men were eliminated from the gang. But the dock work was done by men that came in previous—when they start palletizing cargo, men were still—work was still done by longshoremen, but it wasn't done in connection with the gang unit.

[00:39:46] **HOWARD:** Let me ask a couple more question, I don't want to drive this thing into the ground, but I read all these speeches where Bridges will say stuff like, during the war, he said, "Unions must become an instrument for the speed-up. We have to push for productivity."

[00:40:00] **REINO:** That was during the war?

[00:40:01] **HOWARD:** That was during the war.

[00:40:04] **REINO:** I don't recall.

[00:40:04] **HOWARD:** "We have to devote all energies to production." You don't think that had any impact on the pace of the work or anything like that? Or I should ask, do you?

[00:40:17] **REINO:** Do I what?

[00:40:17] **HOWARD:** Well, did you see any differences—yeah. I mean Bridges was taking this line that “we’ve got to push.”

[00:40:23] **REINO:** Well, he probably took that line, and as I say, I don't think—I think the men was doing as well as they could and did it. So I don't think that had any effect.

[00:40:34] **HOWARD:** And men—did the men feel like they were being pushed?

[00:40:37] **REINO:** Not to my knowledge. If they did, they disregarded it.

[00:40:42] **HOWARD:** Do you ever remember any work stoppages during the war?

[00:40:51] **REINO:** I don't recall. I don't know whether it was during the war or not, but there was a work stop. I wasn't a dispatcher, I was working then, you know, we had a two-year rule: you're in two years, and then you had to—you went back on the Waterfront and worked. There was a work stoppage in Selby [California] and [James] Kearney was in that gang, and he was instrument. And now I don't say this is during the war, I don't remember the dates, and Kearney was instrumental in this work stoppage, what it was about—either I can't say off-hand. And as a result of it, Kearney was given 30 days off from work because he promoted the work stoppage.

[00:41:38] **HOWARD:** I think that was after the war, I'm pretty sure—

[00:41:40] **REINO:** Maybe it was.

[00:41:41] **HOWARD:** I think that was '46, '47, something like that.

[00:41:42] **REINO:** Probably was. Yeah, right, see that's what I said, can't place these dates, go and do a lot of research and all.

[00:41:46] **HOWARD:** I read some of that and it came up with a list of work stoppages, there's a whole bunch before the war and there's a who bunch after, and there aren't too many in the middle—there's a few during the war. But there over little minor beefs about someone forgot to bring his lunch and left early, or something like that.

[00:42:04] **REINO:** Yeah, we—when I was on the job too, we had a work stoppage—they didn't develop into anything, it was after the war, and even before the war where the foreman would come down and being kind of a nervous nelly, he would start doing work, and the gang would just sit down and say, "Go ahead." Well, that would stop him immediately because he knew the gang wasn't going to do anything while he was performing. So, we had a foreman like that.

[00:42:36] **HOWARD:** One thing that Gerry Bulcke mentioned to me during the war was that there was an awful lot of wasted labor in that the men were standing around—that's when the four-on, four-off thing became a practice.



[00:42:46] **REINO:** I thought that came after the war? I don't know now.

[00:42:53] **HOWARD:** Someone else said he thought it was after also, I don't know.

[00:42:55] **REINO:** I think that it was after the war myself.

[00:43:00] **HOWARD:** What about—I mean, a number of people had told me that they would go out on a job and the employers wouldn't know where to assign the men and they'd tell them to go smoke a cigarette behind the ship. Were you aware of that sort of stuff?

[00:43:13] **REINO:** No.

[00:43:13] **HOWARD:** And they over assigned men to a job? Stuff like that?

[00:43:18] **REINO:** That could be. I'll tell you why. I think some of the employers would order back from the previous day more men than they needed because, not knowing what they needed tomorrow, because if they send them back to the hall, maybe the hall couldn't provide them with the manpower that they needed. That could've been. So they would keep excess men on the job so they'd have them. That could be, I'm just [?appearing?] conjecture on my part.

[00:43:47] **HOWARD:** Also I guess the employers were compensated by the number of men that they had working.

[00:43:51] **REINO:** I imagine they were, I don't know exactly how—what kind of contracts they had with the military and the government—they used to say it was a cost-plus where their cost plus their profits.

[00:44:03] **HOWARD:** That's what Bulcke was suggesting, they got 10 percent plus, so it was in their interest to hire a lot of longshoremen because it was a 10 percent off of a lot more men.

[00:44:14] **REINO:** Bulcke would know more better, he sat in on more of those of that time.

[00:44:19] **HOWARD:** When were you a dispatcher? 'Forty-three?

[00:44:21] **REINO:** 'Forty-three, 'forty-four, 'forty-five. Part of '43, all of '44, and part of, most of '45. We had our elections on terms run through October, I think in those years.

[00:44:38] **HOWARD:** Was that your first elected office in the union?

[00:44:40] **REINO:** Yes.

[00:44:43] **HOWARD:** Okay, so you don't see that there was any kind of change in the work process during the war, there wasn't any evidence of a speed-up or men being pushed or anything like that?

[00:44:54] **REINO:** No, and I was part of—at that time I was working on the docks too, and I'd never seen it.

[00:45:00] **HOWARD:** Never seen it?

[00:45:00] **REINO:** No.

[00:45:01] **HOWARD:** That's really funny, because everyone has emphasized how Bridges was pushing the men, and said this antagonized people.

[00:45:09] **REINO:** Well, how could Bridges push the men? He wasn't on a job! He didn't come down the docks and give speeches and things to my knowledge. They may have probably said it in the union paper and things that "Keep it Moving" which was standard for the time.

[00:45:27] **HOWARD:** But as far as you're concerned that didn't have any effect on the men down there—they were just doing their job—

[00:45:31] **REINO:** No, just their normal job, yes.

[00:45:35] **HOWARD:** That's an important point.

[00:45:40] **REINO:** And they didn't make back either. They were good longshoremen, before the war and during the war. They were really skilled longshoremen. It took a lot of skill to handle that equipment. See, we didn't have the machinery that we have nowadays, they had to strip the winches and the cranes—ship-cranes, they didn't have the dockside cranes or vans. We loaded airplanes, we loaded—and you had to do all this with the ship's equipment, big crates of airplanes. Seventy-foot long. Eight-foot long, stake of men on deck between the stays on the ships and the hatches. And bombs. We'd load bombs right here in the port of San Francisco, Pier 45.

[00:46:41] **HOWARD:** You remember any accidents or sloppy loading or anything like that?

[00:46:46] **REINO:** No, no. No, we were very careful loading. The only accident that I remember which was not our men, was not—it was Port Chicago, didn't involve. It was a Navy installation, Navy people, and their employees were doing the work—are you familiar with that?

[00:47:05] **HOWARD:** A little bit, you want to explain it now?

[00:47:07] **REINO:** From what I read of the papers at the time was their loading this ammunition ship and they—whatever happened I don't recall, but the whole ship blew up, and the damage killed hundreds people and it was an ammunition ship that was loading up in the port in Chicago, and did a lot of damage around the area there from the explosion. You heard it here in San Francisco.

[00:47:33] **HOWARD:** Where is Port Chicago?

[00:47:34] **REINO:** Port Chicago is—you know where Crockett [California] is? It's up toward Stockton [California] on the Sacramento—

[00:47:40] **HOWARD:** Oh, I know where that is.

[00:47:41] **REINO:** Up the river, between—near Pittsburgh [California] , Concord [California] , Port Chicago [California] —that area.

[00:47:48] **HOWARD:** Wow, and you heard it in San Francisco?

[00:47:49] **REINO:** It was heard in San Francisco and the flash, I understand. I didn't hear it or see it, but they said it was.

[00:47:55] **HOWARD:** Shoot! It must've been like an atomic bomb or something.

[00:47:57] **REINO:** Yeah, it was just like one. I don't know what—how much dynamite or powder they had on that ship, but the whole damn ship. . . I don't think there was anything left of the ship when it blew up.

[00:48:09] **HOWARD:** I'm sure there wouldn't be. And people had lost their lives?

[00:48:12] **REINO:** Hundreds of people. In fact there was a Captain [?Gaid?] was one of the—I guess he was with the military at the time, he was with one of the stevedoring companies here, an official of one, I think it was San Francisco Stevedore Company, was the name of the company at that time; it no longer exists. He was aboard that ship, and I understand that he was killed.

And he we didn't have any mishaps when we're loading ammunition and gunpowder and everything. You know, the union members. And we rolled right down there in Pier 50. You can see through that window, Pier 50. Imagine an explosion like that in one of our docks.

[00:49:01] **HOWARD:** Half the city would be gone. Did the men ever talk about the war effort when they working?

[00:49:09] **REINO:** Oh yes, I think they did.

[00:49:11] **HOWARD:** Did they sort of put forth an extra effort, get the ships going or—?

[00:49:15] **REINO:** Oh I think they did. They probably extended the rules a bit. If a ship didn't make it in 12 hours, they probably went in for another half hour, hour in order to get it out, which they wouldn't have been required to do.

[00:49:28] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you about that because there's evidence of a lot of that was going on, that the army was saying that all kinds of records are being broken on loading ships and stuff like that. Now the question I have for you is: men were doing that voluntarily? Or were they under a little bit of pressure to perform up to those standards? Or do you know?

[00:49:48] **REINO:** I think it would be—I would say that it would be voluntary. Voluntarily, because there was no one that could've made them exceed the contract, you know, if they didn't want to.

[00:50:00] **HOWARD:** I suppose that's true, unless they knew they wouldn't get any backing from the union officers if they struck or something like that.

[00:50:05] **REINO:** There wouldn't be a strike because they're within the contract, they could turn—their time is expired, they could go home. It wouldn't be considered a strike.

[00:50:15] **HOWARD:** Yeah, well I think even some of the rules, some of the provisions in the contract were set aside during the war. I may be mistaken.

[00:50:24] **REINO:** Maybe they were, I don't know.

[00:50:26] **HOWARD:** But anyway, that wasn't a major issue?

[00:50:28] **REINO:** No, no not to my knowledge.

[00:50:31] **HOWARD:** Okay, now that takes us through the war, and now the post-war period which is another issue that I want to explore, Kearny gets elected around 1950, I think—

[00:50:44] **REINO:** I think it was '48, I think.

[00:50:46] **HOWARD:** Was it that early?

[00:50:46] **REINO:** Yeah.

[00:50:48] **HOWARD:** Now to me that's the first evidence—is that the first signs of right-left split in Local 10?

[00:50:54] **REINO:** I think there was—no there was before, did Bulcke and old-timers taken in by the CIO [Congress of Industrial Organizations] ? That was before the—

[00:51:01] **HOWARD:** Yeah, that was '37.

[00:51:02] **REINO:** That was in '37, yes.

[00:51:02] **HOWARD:** Was there opposition to that?

[00:51:06] **REINO:** Oh yes, I was in—I was a permit man, I couldn't even attend union meetings at the time. I don't know all the workings in it, but they had a group called the 113 Steuart Street Bunch—didn't anybody ever give you that information?

[00:51:23] **HOWARD:** I never heard of them.

[00:51:25] **REINO:** Oh, hell that was—

[00:51:26] **HOWARD:** What were they called? 113—

[00:51:28] **REINO:** Steuart Street.

[00:51:31] **HOWARD:** Why was that?

[00:51:32] **REINO:** Because they established headquarters there, and that was originally the headquarters of the ILA when we were local—what was it '38? [Local] Seventy-nine, when the ILA was first organized. That's where all the—right on the corner, around the corner from Steuart [Street] and Mission [Street] , where the Bloody Thursday took place. That was our headquarters. And these guys moved into there then. They were

opposed to the union going into the CIO, they didn't have much luck, so that's probably why the—they left the union. They left the IL—when we became the ILWU, they tried to carry on as the ILA. They only had a handful of people, most of those were permit men too, I was one, but I didn't go with them.

[00:52:27] **HOWARD:** That wasn't the Dirty Dozen was it?

[00:52:29] **REINO:** No, that was from Pedro I think.

[00:52:31] **HOWARD:** Yeah. But why did they want to stay in the AF of L [American Federation of Labor] ? Do you know?

[00:52:38] **REINO:** Well, they thought—well first of all, I think they were opposed to Bridges primarily, they were people that didn't like Bridges, for one thing, which we had in the local here. I think there was [?Red Kennedy?] ? Went over, he was a dispatcher at the time, had been a dispatcher. And a few other guys, I can't think of all the names, and they went over to the 113. A few of them had been probably executive board members of the local. They tried to bring people over with them, but they were not successful. So it died aborning I would say.

[00:53:22] **HOWARD:** Okay, so that was in the initial—

[00:53:24] **REINO:** That was in '37. Although they passed a lot of leaflets and papers and try to stay with the AF of L. See they would've kept that, they kept us in the ILA, Ryan's, Joe Ryan's union at the time.

[00:53:44] **HOWARD:** So it was mostly they opposed Bridges?

[00:53:48] **REINO:** I think so.

[00:53:48] **HOWARD:** Did they oppose him on political issues, or just personality?

[00:53:53] **REINO:** Probably political at the time, I think.

[00:53:55] **HOWARD:** Yeah, were you sympathetic to them?

[00:53:58] **REINO:** To the—to the what?

[00:53:59] **HOWARD:** To the 113—?

[00:54:00] **REINO:** Oh, hell no. Oh no. No thought of being sympathetic to them, because I kind of favored the CIO myself, at the time. Although I had no voice or vote in the union over the matter at the time because of being a permit man at the time. I didn't get my full membership until 1939.

[00:54:19] **HOWARD:** Alright, so that's before the war.

[00:54:23] **REINO:** Yeah.

[00:54:26] **HOWARD:** But you were—you became a full member of the union, and in about three, four years later you're elected to the main dispatcher job.

[00:54:35] **REINO:** First I got in the Pacific Maritime Industry Board, which you mentioned, somebody was fired or quit or something and I was appointed his place, because it was between elections.

[00:54:50] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[00:54:50] **REINO:** Yeah.

[00:54:51] **HOWARD:** So you served on the MP—

[00:54:52] **REINO:** No, no, I was appointed dispatcher by the board, which was the employers and the union.

[00:54:59] **HOWARD:** Right.

[00:54:59] **REINO:** They had to pick successors, there were several, not only myself, because others became walking bosses or left, or were fired from the job as dispatcher. And so I was appointed to fill a vacancy, and I think I had about three or four months before elections came up. And then I had to stand up for election at the very next election, and which at the time I was elected as chief dispatcher, being three or four months of regular dispatcher. My first time. Although I have been on the investigating committee prior to that which is a committee of the unions, the function committee.

That was in '43 that I was elected dispatcher first time, in October of '43.

[00:56:02] **HOWARD:** So the first left-right split in the union is this 113 Street or—

[00:56:08] **REINO:** 113 Steuart Street Bunch, yeah. That was prior to the war.

[00:56:11] **HOWARD:** 'Thirty-seven?

[00:56:12] **REINO:** Yeah.

[00:56:12] **HOWARD:** And then the next episode is after the war I take it with Kearney and his group?

[00:56:16] **REINO:** There was no split.

[00:56:18] **HOWARD:** Well—okay, then what would you characterize it as then?

[00:56:23] **REINO:** Well, it was union politics, that's what I would say it is. Yes, a lot of people didn't like Kearney, they thought he was phony, a lot of people didn't like who his opponents were, they ran for office—so, it was just a choice, and Kearney—and both of the times he ran, he was elected to whatever position he ran for.

[00:56:53] **HOWARD:** What about characterizing them as right-winger or left-winger? Is that accurate?

[00:56:59] **REINO:** Yes, I would say there's some accuracy to it, but again, it's the politics, also the union, but of course a lot of the—like myself, why, I wasn't exactly left-wing and I wasn't exactly the real extreme

right-wing. I was bit—I would call myself a progressive and trade unionist, and sometimes we had to take a position and you would hurt people's feelings.

[00:57:35] **HOWARD:** What—was there any difference in so-called right-wing versus when it came to how the union operated?

[00:57:44] **REINO:** No, no. That was spelled out in the Constitution and operation of the union. The only difference was the—primarily who was the president, which was the key job of the president. Dispatchers didn't make any difference with who was dispatcher, which was a real key job to the union.

Let me say to you that's one thing was what's good about this two-year rule in the Local, no one perpetuated himself in office where they could—where they could build up a machine or pull off any shenanigans, they'd be in there maybe two years, and they'd have a lot of work, and in year, maybe they wouldn't get reelected even. So I think the two-year rule is a good rule, although there have been moves by different people at times to eliminate it, but the membership never stood for it. Both right-wing and left-wing were adamant in keeping the two-year limitation in office.

[00:58:47] **HOWARD:** Never applied though to international officers.

[00:58:49] **REINO:** No, that wasn't, and I can see why, because they're really dealing on another level than the locals are—as long as they did the right thing, which I think they've done pretty well.

[00:59:06] **HOWARD:** Were right-wing leaders less militant on union issues than left-wing leaders?

[00:59:15] **REINO:** Well, I don't know. Who would you classify as a right-wing leader? You don't know them, and I don't think there was that much difference in the local—one year we had a real left-wing leader, or one that leaned to the left, next year a right-wing leader and the local went on, same as ever. Yeah, no problems.

[00:59:47] **HOWARD:** Then why did people run on slate? I mean I—

[00:59:50] **REINO:** To get elected, I guess.

[00:59:54] **HOWARD:** See, I'm pouring over all these—

[00:59:56] **REINO:** What's the slate that you're—what year is that?

[01:00:00] **HOWARD:** I'll show you. I think it's '52, I got a bunch that I didn't bring with me. Here's the original Blue Slate, and I guess one of them is the final election and other one is the primary. And I read through these things and they've got two slates, so-progressives—No, that's fine. They've got the Progressive slate, they've got the Blue Slate, and everybody's churning out all this propaganda about screening and supporting the Bridges-Schmidt-Robertson defense fund, and it seems like people are real agitated at the time, and they're lining up, right and left on all these issues.

[01:00:39] **REINO:** Wasn't this the year that Wallace, third-party—?

[01:00:44] **HOWARD:** That was '48, I think.

[01:00:45] **REINO:** Was that '48?

[01:00:46] **HOWARD:** Yeah.

[01:00:46] **REINO:** That was one time in the split, because Bridges endorsed Wallace, and we came out for Truman, many of the members did. That was kind of—well that was politics, national politics rather than Local politics, so that kind of split here.

[01:01:05] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I realized that the union never split wide open, but there were right and left—

[01:01:09] **REINO:** Oh yes.

[01:01:10] **HOWARD:** Caucuses, whatever you want to call it.

[01:01:10] **REINO:** They were not—if there were, the right-wing sure didn't have any caucuses, they were not organized at all, they didn't hold meetings—

[01:01:21] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:01:23] **REINO:** No, it was all just on paper. That's all I can say, I know, for a fact, they were a paper only, just like you had here. I don't know what the left did, if they did, if they had caucuses. I recall hearing things that these people held meetings and so what—

[END PART TWO/BEGIN PART THREE]

[01:01:47] **HOWARD:** Don't want to call them splitters or nothing like that, but the groupings, at least—

[01:01:55] **REINO:** Yeah.

[01:01:56] **HOWARD:** And so, how well organized was the right?

[01:02:01] **REINO:** Not very well, at all, organized. As organizations go, they would—as I said earlier, they're just organized on paper that's what happened there. We hustled around, ask guys, and guys came on their own beliefs and wanted to get on the slate, but some of these people never attended union meetings hardly. Honestly.

Whereas the members, I would say, the militant members of the union did attend the meetings and the right-wing was more lax as far as meeting attendance was concerned.

[01:02:38] **HOWARD:** Oh is that right?

[01:02:39] **REINO:** Right.

[01:02:41] **HOWARD:** Now, you said the militant members, are you saying the—

[01:02:46] **REINO:** Yes, the communist-militants. They were regular attendants at meetings, always had been.

[01:02:51] **HOWARD:** What about the issue of screening, how much of an issues was that in the local?



[01:02:58] **REINO:** It wasn't an issue between the members didn't have anything, but the members were adamant against the screening, the majority of the members were.

[01:03:08] **HOWARD:** Against screening?

[01:03:09] **REINO:** Against screening, yes.

[01:03:11] **HOWARD:** Now Kearney—

[01:03:11] **REINO:** I was in the union's position.

[01:03:13] **HOWARD:** Okay. What was the position of Kearney on that? I thought he favored screening?

[01:03:17] **REINO:** Not to my knowledge, no.

[01:03:19] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[01:03:20] **REINO:** Not to my knowledge.

[01:03:21] **HOWARD:** No one in the union, that you remember, favored screening?

[01:03:24] **REINO:** No, not that I can recall, nobody that really wanted screening—I don't think any members wanted screening.

[01:03:34] **HOWARD:** I'm almost positive I read somewhere—I could be wrong—where Kearney is in a convention somewhere and he says, "When screening gets here, we'll be able to send all the Reds up in [?Toohey?] Lake," or something like that.

[01:03:45] **REINO:** I never heard that. Of course I wasn't at every meeting, I didn't attend—well, conventions after '48, I was at most conventions and caucuses after '48.

[01:04:06] **HOWARD:** So was there much debate around screening?

[01:04:08] **REINO:** In the conventions I recall there was, you know discussions. I don't how much of it was a debate, but most of the people were—and I think if you look up resolutions, they were carried pretty well in the caucuses and conventions opposed the screening.

[01:04:33] **HOWARD:** How about the Korean War? I know that was a major source of contention in Local 10.

[01:04:38] **REINO:** Yeah, that was a time—yes. There was—that was a—you know, my memory's not as good as it used to be. You get older.

[01:04:47] **HOWARD:** It was 30 years ago.

[01:04:49] **REINO:** Yeah, and I'll be 69 next month.

[01:04:52] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:04:53] **REINO:** Yeah.

[01:04:54] **HOWARD:** Very well preserved.

[01:04:54] **REINO:** Well, I got my aches and pains.

[01:05:00] **HOWARD:** I don't know, I've seen a lot of you guys that are 70s, even 80s, you know, from the Waterfront in excellent shape, mostly.

[01:05:09] **REINO:** Sixty-nine in another week or two, October 2.

So let's see [pause] oh, I recall now. Bridges was an official of the World Federation Trade Unions—was it? Yes.

[01:05:29] **HOWARD:** That was part of it.

[01:05:30] **REINO:** That was part of it, I think then. And we passed a motion in our local that he give up his job in the World Federation Trade Unions and took it to a caucus, and I think the caucus endorsed it too, at the time, yes.

[01:05:53] **HOWARD:** Overwhelmingly.

[01:05:54] **REINO:** Yes

[01:05:56] **HOWARD:** Did he step down from the World Federation. . .?

[01:05:57] **REINO:** I think he did. I think he did, I don't know if he did it officially or not, but he was enacted as far as locals were concerned, I didn't hear much about it.

[01:06:12] **HOWARD:** It's interesting because everyone seemed to be really concerned with politics, and were willing to fight on—well, I would consider it a political issue, largely.

[01:06:21] **REINO:** You would?

[01:06:21] **HOWARD:** Yes. I mean it's outside the union.

[01:06:23] **REINO:** That's right, yes. That's where any division there was amongst the members, it was on politics. But when it came down to strikes or working conditions, everything, membership was well-unified.

[01:06:40] **HOWARD:** So the splits then were sort of on ex-political issues?

[01:06:45] **REINO:** And I recall correctly on that Korea thing, we supported Truman's action on the Korea thing, which I think Bridges was opposed to at the time.

[01:06:58] **HOWARD:** Yeah, Bridges was for a ceasefire and something like that.

[01:07:02] **REINO:** Well we were very cagey about it too, we said, "We'll take the United Nation's position." And wasn't that Truman's position? I think, at the time

[01:07:13] **HOWARD:** Could've been, I don't remember to tell you the truth.

[01:07:15] **REINO:** Because they're going to bring in police force soldiers from India, police—things like that. That it was the United Nations actions that we supported in the local.

[01:07:29] **HOWARD:** And earlier you said that you're progressive but an anti-communist, could you explain what that means?

[01:07:36] **REINO:** Well, I don't know if that's—well, I didn't say that I was an anti-communist.

[01:07:40] **HOWARD:** No?

[01:07:40] **REINO:** No, I said I consider myself a progressive.

[01:07:44] **HOWARD:** Maybe you were talking about Kearney or something.

[01:07:47] **REINO:** Maybe I was, I don't recall and—I don't know. And I shouldn't say what Kearney's thoughts are either because I don't know. Or anybody else's, all I could do is speak for myself, and—but I think if a guy wanted to be a communist, let him be. In fact, I was recruited to join the YCL [Young Communists League], at times, and I had leanings. . . I thought they had just cause in many respects and I wasn't opposed to them when they wanted to be and all was good. But I didn't want to be, I talked to a friend of mine who was a member of the YCL. A fellow who I went to college with, and he was a wealthy fellow. And he said to me, "No, don't join," he said, "You're foreign-born and we don't want—" "They can't do anything to me. All they can do is send me back to the United States." "With you, they could send you to Finland!"

[01:08:48] **HOWARD:** Are you foreign-born?

[01:08:49] **REINO:** Yes, I was born in Finland. Although I'm a derivative citizen, through my father's papers.

[01:08:58] **HOWARD:** But why were you—let me ask you another question, why were you riding on the Blue Slate instead of the Progressive Slate? I mean you said, you call yourself a progressive.

[01:09:08] **REINO:** Well, you have progressives on here, a lot of progressives! I'm not the only one. I can name then to you here.

[looking at Howard's documents] You don't have the primary one, this is the—

[01:09:21] **HOWARD:** I think the primary is there, it's two-pages.

[01:09:24] **REINO:** You don't have one for president. Oh, yeah president here, Walter Nelson! He was a progressive he was not a—

[01:09:36] **HOWARD:** The papers called him a right-winger.

[01:09:38] **REINO:** Yeah, well, he was kind of a right-winger and most of these guys here, and George Arms was a right-winger. [?Kirby?] he was kind of middle of the road.

[01:09:50] **HOWARD:** Now, let me ask you about George Arms, everyone told me that he was right-winger, what does that mean?

[01:09:54] **REINO:** Well I think his battle was with Bridges, personally. They were old-timers on the Waterfront, knew each other for the organizing days of the union, and then there were some slanderous remarks made about [?Arms?] , it was on the pay—the lawyer's association, at times, I don't know who made it, but the word was spread around, which I don't believe was true. Well, myself, [?George Kahale, Bob Rowhatch?] who was really close to the International with most respects—

[01:10:29] **HOWARD:** Now he is.

[01:10:30] **REINO:** And even then he was, pretty well. But a lot of these guys here. . . [?Albert Pattani?] .

[01:10:42] **HOWARD:** That's Baggy, right?

[01:10:42] **REINO:** Baggy. Close friend of mine, he and I were real close.

[01:10:46] **HOWARD:** So then why were guys running on this slate as opposed to the other?

[01:10:55] **REINO:** Do you happen to have the slate? Do you remember who was running—?

[01:10:58] **HOWARD:** Well, I know it's usually Schmidt or somebody else.

[01:11:01] **REINO:** Schmidt? I think Schmidt and, Jesus, I don't even know. Schmidt on here as well, and Walter Nelson.

Schmidt was a good man, was a real good trade unionist and a very excellent chairman, excellent thinker, yes. I liked Schmidt.

[01:11:22] **HOWARD:** Well, the reason why I Xeroxed all this stuff and I got a lot more, is that I was going to try to look at Local 10 and say, “Okay, here's the right-wing based on”—

[01:11:30] **REINO:** Well, this was during the Korean thing, I think? Fifteen—

[01:11:32] **HOWARD:** Yeah, a little after.

[01:11:33] **REINO:** Yeah, I think that was one of things that brought on this Blue Slate. Yes, there's something political—national, international politics that we took our stand for. I remember at the time, I was an officer, the officer put out a bulletin, Kearney was—and I didn't agree with it, and everybody signed it, but me, because I wouldn't agree to it.

[01:11:58] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[01:11:59] **REINO:** Well, I don't remember exactly what it was about, but it was something about national politics again, or international politics, and I was not in favor of it, so I never signed it, and I was the only officer that didn't.

[01:12:13] **HOWARD:** Yeah, you don't sound like you belong in a right-wing slate then, or anything like that. But you may have been exceptional, is that possible for you, in that regard?

[01:12:22] **REINO:** Maybe so. I had support on both sides, I called the shots, I said, "We're not going to—" I wouldn't consider myself a fence-rider, I really called the shots, I said, "We're—" Even in the early days of the union, we had a lot of Scandinavians on the Waterfront, and they had a big block of support from them. Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Finns, and yeah—

[01:12:49] **HOWARD:** Because of your background and stuff?

[01:12:51] **REINO:** That's true. And they knew my father, a lot of old-timers worked with my father.

Bridges knew my father. My father and Bridges worked in the same gang in the Blue Book days.

[01:13:04] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:13:04] **REINO:** Yeah.

[01:13:06] **HOWARD:** Did your father ever talk about Bridges? He must have?

[01:13:08] **REINO:** Oh yes.

[01:13:09] **HOWARD:** What did he say?

[01:13:10] **REINO:** He liked him very much in those days. Then he was PO'd [pissed off] because he didn't get the pension—my father. He worked at the Waterfront before pensions were in effect, he missed it by two years.

[01:13:23] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:13:24] **REINO:** Yeah.

[01:13:25] **HOWARD:** He left when then? When did he leave?

[01:13:28] **REINO:** In 1950, around that time. And pensions came around 1952. And my father was kind of pissed off at me too, my father, because you know, said I should have let him know better, because I've been active in the union already. But he bought a little farm and he moved up there, and let me tell you a little story, I don't know what it's worth to you.

So one day, I'm in the bar after a union meeting, Harrington's. Bridges comes up to me and says—I better not say this for publication—

[Break in recording of interview]

[01:14:11] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you a question about Kearney. He seemed to always win elections when he ran.

[01:14:16] **REINO:** He did.

[01:14:17] **HOWARD:** Why was he so popular?

[01:14:20] **REINO:** I think one reason about him. When he went out of office, he went right back to the hold of the ship, I guess others have told you that. He wasn't lazy, he was good worker, a hard worker and liked a little nip [alcoholic drink] now and then. And he had a sense of humor, beyond this—anyone that I ever knew with a sense of humor, he had. And put some little anecdotes and jokes that he'd come up with. I think that's why the men respected Kearney, he got it because he would go right down. He didn't take a winch driver job, he wasn't a jitney driver, he wasn't a dockman, he went right down in the hold. Let me tell you.

[01:15:07] **HOWARD:** He was a gang boss though, wasn't he? Or, I mean a foreman or something like that? Was he just a regular hold man?

[01:15:13] **REINO:** Regular hold man. Never a foreman even, to my knowledge. Never a foreman, he may have been—

[01:15:19] **HOWARD:** They called it Kearney's gang though, didn't they?

[01:15:21] **REINO:** Well, he may have—because he was in the gang, maybe it was Kearney's gang, but maybe he was. But I don't—if he was, it was a very brief time. I think he was too, he had a shovel gang, briefly, I think. I wasn't a dispatcher then.

Kearney, before he was first struck with cancer, he had an operation, he had cancer. Had this tumor on his chest, was removed surgically from the outside. And I was then working as clerk already, and I was on the job on Pier Ninety, and they were having sacks in the hold. Kearney's working, just recovered from his surgery and convalescent, the first night on the job, he came to work, went on the hold of the ship and he said, "See what I got?" He shows me. He's got a tin pie plate, taped to his chest to protect his wound.

[01:16:22] **HOWARD:** And he was working?

[01:16:26] **REINO:** I thought that was amazing. And he's working, down there, throwing sacks and all.

"Kearney, you're nuts," I told him. "You should have taken more time." "Oh, I got to get back to work," he says.

[01:16:38] **HOWARD:** Was it terminal? It must've been terminal.

[01:16:40] **REINO:** It was terminal. It was the kind that moved around, that cancer. That particular one was terminal.

[01:16:47] **HOWARD:** It was malignant.

[01:16:47] **REINO:** It was a malignancy. Then a few years later he died. He had maybe surgery twice after that.

[01:16:58] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you—I can understand why he must have been popular for all these reasons, did his political stand do anything to do with his popularity? The fact that he took certain positions on foreign policy or something?

[01:17:09] **REINO:** Well yes, I think so. And he was recognized at the caucuses when he got up to speak and made motions or presented arguments. And he was a good speaker, which I am not, I was never a good speaker. I get kind of rattled.

[01:17:34] **HOWARD:** Most of us do.

[01:17:35] **REINO:** Kearney, he—I got a little paper here I want to show you, Kearney, maybe—I don't want to—saved it for a long time.

[01:17:44] **HOWARD:** How do you explain his popularity then? Maybe it was a little bit of both, maybe it was that he was addressing political issues that people wanted to hear addressed. But maybe it was just that he was an honest guy, he went back to the hull, he seemed like a real, regular rank-and-file longshoremen.

[01:17:59] **REINO:** I think he was.

[01:18:00] **HOWARD:** Both, right?

[01:18:01] **REINO:** Yes.

[01:18:02] **HOWARD:** Which do you think was most important, can you say?

[01:18:04] **REINO:** In the local, that he kept going back to the pits.

[01:18:06] **HOWARD:** Yeah, Local 10, right? It was that sort of stuff? So the fact that he was a "right-winger" was less important?

[01:18:14] **REINO:** Less, it was absolutely less important than—

[01:18:18] **HOWARD:** Than the fact that he went back into the hull and rubbed shoulders with the men.

[01:18:21] **REINO:** Even I didn't go back to the hull, I was a winch driver and a jitney driver and an extra boss, things—although I did work a lot times in the hold too, I wasn't lazy. That's where the work was and I needed money, so I go in the hold.

[01:18:37] **HOWARD:** Let me ask you then, with Kearney elected to office after the war, does that signify a shift of the local to the political right?

[01:18:54] **REINO:** Yes and no. He could get elected one year and lose the next, so it's—

[01:18:59] **HOWARD:** Did he ever lose elections?

[01:19:01] **REINO:** Yes he did. There's time he ran and he didn't get elected for a period there, yes. And he came back and started again, instead of running for the—he lost president once or twice, I think. I think [?Martin Callahan?] beat him for president. And two Irishmen. Yeah. And then I think—then he started out again, he ran for business agent and was elected business agent, and from there, he built himself up again. He was a business agent while I was president.

[01:19:32] **HOWARD:** Now in this article it said that most of his supporters I think that's what they were saying were Irishmen.

[01:19:38] **REINO:** Irish, yes.

[01:19:40] **HOWARD:** Did the union always sort of break down that way? Into Irish-Catholic and—

[01:19:44] **REINO:** No, no. See, the newspapers write things up like that too. As I told you earlier, I had a long of support amongst the Scandinavians too, but they alone couldn't elect me so I'm sure there weren't that many Irish-Catholics on the Waterfront either to elect Kearney even. He had a combination of all people on the Waterfront, or any other member who ever got elected. In fact, later, in the Blacks, he had good relationship with the Blacks, I know because he worked with them, Blacks were in the hold, a lot of them. And he worked with him, and so I'm sure he got some support from them also. They may not have been as visible, the support that he got from others—neither did I. There was a lot of support that we got from people that were not vocal and just voted.

[01:20:44] **HOWARD:** I know one time, I think it was in '45, '46, right after the war, Kearney made a proposal to reduce the labor force by 1,000 men, and that would be almost all Blacks that would be leaving. Remember any of that?

[01:21:00] **REINO:** Repeat that again?

[01:21:01] **HOWARD:** Right after the war, when worked slowed down, they had a glut of longshoremen, Kearney and Bridges later, made the suggestion to reduce the labor force by about 1,000. And that would mean that mostly Black people would be removed from the Waterfront, most of the 1,000 would be Black. That would get fired.

[01:21:18] **REINO:** Probably the majority.

[01:21:19] **HOWARD:** Now, I imagine that didn't endear him to the Black people in the union, but—

[01:21:26] **REINO:** Well, the Blacks weren't so much a—from what I recollect correctly, the ones that were more vocal and more opposed to it were the ones that were going to be eliminated, because work had fallen off. Those Blacks or whites, whoever was left on the Waterfront, just wanted to make a living. And, rather than keep a lot of people on the share-starvation or lesser income, so I don't think that would hurt either side. I know that there was opposition to it, but in those days, permit men were permitted to come to the meetings and voice their opinions. Those, even those that were being dropped. So, I think that's what most of the opposition was. There was a problem that were confronted with. I think it was done twice, I think we dropped 800 at one time, I think the figure was and maybe 1,000. I don't recall exact figures.



[01:22:27] **HOWARD:** Did you every drop people—I didn't think that they ever did?

[01:22:30] **REINO:** They were—well, they were not, they were not regular members, people with permits, permit men.

When I say dropped, they were let go from the industry.

[01:22:45] **HOWARD:** So I guess the bottom-line here, as far as left and right stuff of the union is you don't think that it was very consequential.

[01:22:52] **REINO:** I don't think so, it may have been—

[01:22:55] **HOWARD:** Was it true even at the time? See now we can look back several years ago—

[01:22:58] **REINO:** Well, yeah.

[01:23:00] **HOWARD:** But at the time, it sure seemed like a big deal going on in that union.

[01:23:03] **REINO:** Yeah, it was, I say it didn't split the union. Guys that were left and right worked in the same gangs and drank together, ate together—yeah, so they didn't. The biggest split I think it was an attempted split in my time in the union, was the 113 Steuart Street, and they didn't succeed. They didn't have a following. They thought they were going to come in and rose, and they didn't. Even some of the people that were instrumental in publishing their leaflets and material, and others didn't even go. They saw the handwriting on the walls. They said, “These people aren't going to make it.”

[01:23:57] **HOWARD:** How do you feel about the union? How important is the union to you?

[01:24:00] **REINO:** Oh, it's very important. Still to me. I just realized—called to my wife's attention today, Kaiser [Permanente] raised their rates for membership in the medical plan to eight dollars for two people a month, so our plan pays for my medical care, and if I should die, it takes care of my wife for her lifetime. I think the union doesn't have the problems it had in the early days. But I don't know what problems they have, I haven't been there now for about, now, six years, I retired. But my son is a third generation, my son is a longshoremen now.

[01:24:47] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[01:24:48] **REINO:** Yes.

[01:24:49] **HOWARD:** How long has he been there?

[01:24:50] **REINO:** I think he started in '59.

[01:24:54] **HOWARD:** Oh was he a B-man?

[01:24:56] **REINO:** He was B-man, yes.

[01:24:59] **HOWARD:** What can you tell me about that period? The B-man? I know that several of them, there was a big controversy surrounding Stan Weir and others who were not admitted to the union. What's your perception of that whole incident? Was Weir and those people given a raw deal?

[Break in recording of interview]

Okay, we're back on now. What was your personal opinion of the M & M Agreement when they were first discussing it in the late 50s?

[01:25:30] **REINO:** Well, I was at a Portland caucus where it was one of the first caucuses that first discussed it, I forget the date. And it was sold to us, and I could see why. [pause] M & M, was that the—[pause]

Turn that off. [referencing recorder]

[Break in recording of interview]

[01:25:59] **HOWARD:** Essentially we were just talking about the M&M Agreement, the essential proposition was that you're going to give up all your work rules in exchange for guaranteed maintaining the labor force and you're going to get this large sum of money when you retire.

[01:26:11] **REINO:** I don't think you're going to give up all you work rules, you're going to revise your work rules.

[01:26:17] **HOWARD:** Okay, you're going to give up your manning scales, you're going to give up your sling-load limits?

[01:26:22] **REINO:** Yes.

[01:26:23] **HOWARD:** Those are the biggies, aren't they?

[01:26:24] **REINO:** I think we had given up the sling load limits already.

[01:26:27] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[01:26:27] **REINO:** I heard that I think. If I recollect correctly. When pallet boards start getting into effect, we start giving them bigger loads. 2,400 pounds was already in effect.

[01:26:38] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[01:26:38] **REINO:** Yes.

[01:26:39] **HOWARD:** Maybe it wasn't on certain cargo, but I thought they were still limits on some.

[01:26:42] **REINO:** Well there was going to be manning—a change in the manning scale because they were going to use more machinery. But I vividly recall Bridges saying, "Let the machine do the work." You know,

"Save your backs." And that was one way we got pensions too, if you want to know, Bridges said that "If we don't get pensions, we're going to retire on the job." You understand what that means?

[01:27:11] **HOWARD:** Why don't you explain it.

[01:27:12] **REINO:** Well, the men would be on the job, and they'd do very little, if anything. They'd be dispatched to work and the employer's wouldn't get the production out of it because they were incapable, they're old and feeble. So that was one thing that was used to get pensions.

[01:27:29] **HOWARD:** Okay, let me raise an argument with that. I guess in 1960, when the M & M Agreement was negotiated, there was very little containerized cargo, and a number of people were arguing at that time that the best approach that the union can do to maintain all its work rules on non-container cargo—general cargo, and that only drop the work rules and everything else when it came to container cargo. And the union leadership went against that and dropped the work rules all across the board. So that the way I understand it, people were working bulk cargo, general cargo, under very oppressive conditions for like five, or six years, before continuing containerization really took effect.

[01:28:10] **REINO:** Yes, there were problems, because the load limits were not adhered to, unit loads came in. And if you know what unit loads are, when loads were strapped together or glued together—canned goods were glued together so they could be in a unit. Before containers came in, they came into unit loads. And they gave us—I was working on the hold at that time. They gave us dollies, and forklifts, and things in the hold that would bring the cargo, to stow it. And then very often, to fill in the open space or the unit didn't fit, we had to break the units, and there was this corporate disputes about that, where you had to break the units—there was only four men, say, with a unit gang in the hold because the forklift would come in. All ships weren't adjusted to where they could do, handle these cargoes, and so they had to break these loads, and then there was a dispute. Companies didn't want to give them. They said "Four men to it." The four men said, "We're doing handbrake cargo. We want more men, at least two more men, or four more men—depending how much handling to be done. There were disputes, yes.

[01:29:36] **HOWARD:** What is this loading? What's it called?

[01:29:38] **REINO:** Unit loads.

[01:29:39] **HOWARD:** Unit loads. They actually glued cans together?

[01:29:41] **REINO:** Yeah, canned goods. Cases to cartons.

[01:29:43] **HOWARD:** Were they sealed it in glued?

[01:29:51] **REINO:** [DRAWING AND DESCRIBING] They glued the two cases together, the whole load would be that way. Have maybe 100 cases on it.

[01:29:59] **HOWARD:** What was the purpose of doing that? So they wouldn't slide around?

[01:30:02] **REINO:** So they wouldn't tip or slide when they're being hoisted because they're such huge loads, when the winches were hoisting them and very often you see them now, strap these belts, you know, that go around them. So those unit loads came in before containers and that's—now they put whole units into containers now, with a forklift, runs right into the container. They build them to fit the container now that was the dispute then, about the gang size—manning that was it, when they got unit loads, they cut down on manning.

[01:30:41] **HOWARD:** What are your personal feelings initially toward the M&M Agreement when it was being proposed? Were you totally accepting it? Or were you a little reluctant?

[01:30:51] **REINO:** No, I was reluctant. I had questions in my mind about it, I raised some questions and I wasn't totally in agreement with it.

[01:31:00] **HOWARD:** Do you remember what the questions were that you had?

[01:31:04] **REINO:** About manning, primarily. Cut down on the manning, what are we going to do with excess men and everything. Well, I was proven wrong, they even hired more men after, you know by attrition, men left industry, and pensions came in.

[01:31:21] **HOWARD:** Do you remember if they ever talked about the ILA situation during it? The ILA was negotiating at the same time.

[01:31:28] **REINO:** Oh, we talked about it on job between ourselves. Like [inaudible] [Yonno?] had contacts on the East Coast and he would come back with an East Coast contract and he'll show it us and—

[01:31:39] **HOWARD:** Was it generally better? Or—?

[01:31:42] **REINO:** Well, the manning they maintained. The manning they did. Yes, and I think they still do. I think they still are hanging on to their manning scales in the East Coast.

[01:31:53] **HOWARD:** There is a catch to that I found out. There's a catch to that thought, they have a eighteen man gang, but sometimes they'll work them three-shifts straight, so the work doesn't get spread out at all. You have some gangs working 20 hours straight. Yeah, 18 men.

[01:32:07] **REINO:** Oh, I didn't know those things.

[01:32:07] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I didn't know until a little while ago.

[01:32:10] **REINO:** Yeah, well that's—

[01:32:12] **HOWARD:** Yeah, it's terrible.

[01:32:13] **REINO:** Oh yeah, that's a step backwards.

And then I accepted it then, I could see it coming, it was a modernizing industry, and things like that we couldn't hang tight on forever. We might've struck on issues like that, but I don't think the membership would've gone along with it for too—

[END PART THREE/BEGIN PART FOUR]

We'd get a—somebody would who had his post contacts who would have a copy of the contract or would publish it in the ILA papers. Somebody would bring it on the job and compare it with ours. Some instances they have better conditions, and others we had better conditions. I don't recall specifically, off-hand what they were.

[01:33:11] **HOWARD:** And your main reservations then concern the question of manning?

[01:33:15] **REINO:** Manning, primarily, yes.

[01:33:22] **HOWARD:** Okay, I just got a couple more questions here. What of the issues I wanted to pursue in this research was, I was always intrigued by what I've called Bridges' durability. Let me explain what I mean by that.

This guy is an outspoken, radical, never made any bones about it. He took all the guff from the employers, he withstood five prosecutions from the federal government, he survived the Cold War, and despite some opposition from the union, never was seriously challenged. How do you explain that?

[01:33:54] **REINO:** Because he produced. He produced results, that's the way I would explain it. I voted for him, and I voted against him, but I think he—as I said earlier, I think we have excellent conditions. As a pensioner, you don't realize how good conditions we have. Pensions, of course aren't the most elaborate, money-wise, but it's not bad for a working stiff, and our medical plan is excellent: every two years I get a free pair of glasses, and this year they even got us on the dental, which we had lost since my retirement.

[01:34:37] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[01:34:38] **REINO:** Yeah, pensioners were not included in dental, and starting in July the first, this year—although Bridges is no longer an officer there—but our International now, we got 80 percent of our dental. Got a slight increase in the pensions, 25 dollars a month. So I think Bridges is strong. One time his stock in my opinion was pretty low, then he got a—amongst the working, the guys working in San Francisco—

[01:35:07] **HOWARD:** When was that?

[01:35:07] **REINO:** This is prior to the pensions. 'Fifty-two, 'fifties. When they start talking about automation—the discussion was started, it wasn't affected yet.

He came through with it, the International union came through with the pensions. When I say Bridges, alone wasn't responsible, we had capable people there with him, our research department and our Coast Committee men, and our negotiators, I think they were—I've attended many labor conferences where AF of L people were speakers, and I don't know how they handled it in their union. But I think they didn't hold a candle to the, in my observations, to our leaders, some of them. I think when Bridges got the pensions for our members—well a hundred dollars in 1952 was not bad. They got a good shot in the arm and then again, his stock went up amongst the working men.

[01:36:26] **HOWARD:** Why do you think Bridges was able to produce so well?

[01:36:31] **REINO:** Well, it was a militant union, up and down the coast.

[01:36:35] **HOWARD:** It was really the rank-and-file.

[01:36:36] **REINO:** Sure, we had support. If he needed it, the support was there.

[01:36:42] **HOWARD:** Even though this guy was a flaming radical?

[01:36:44] **REINO:** Yeah, a lot of the members—

[01:36:47] **HOWARD:** What was their attitude about his politics? I guess it varied.

[01:36:51] **REINO:** It varied amongst the individual members. But as I said earlier, in fact, at one of the conventions, when they nominated Tommy George from Portland to run against him, I made a seconding talk there for Tommy George, and right from being Bridges' local? Nobody got excited that I could do that.

[01:37:17] **HOWARD:** You seconded him, huh?

[01:37:18] **REINO:** Seconded Tommy George, yeah. But I primarily was—I didn't want to see, as I called it, I think that I thought of a Moscow ballot, when there's only one person to vote for. Give the membership a chance to express their opinion. Otherwise, if they didn't like Bridges, they had somebody else to vote for. If they like him, let them good and well vote for him.

[01:37:43] **HOWARD:** Okay, so that's an interesting observation of Bridges' ability to deliver and produce was because he had a solid union, really.

[01:37:51] **REINO:** And it was—that's true. The union was behind him, and he said that himself. He'd say that himself.

[01:38:02] **HOWARD:** Then it's really—it almost could've been anyone, right?

[01:38:08] **REINO:** It couldn't be anyone. You had to have some qualities where you could formulate plans and come up with ideas of things. There were others though that were up there that I think [?L.P.?] Thomas was capable, Howard Bodine—I think Howard Bodine was a real sharp person. And you talk about Bridges' durability—he's still going strong, and all the others, his co-workers, and co-officers are all dead now, practically. Yes, and he's still going on. It's amazing.

[01:38:50] **HOWARD:** I remember reading in the early '60s in Newsweek magazine, they said, "If you were to call a role that formed the CIO, way back in the '30s, Bridges is the only guys that's not only still alive, but is the only one that stayed in office all that time." It's really remarkable. It's quite an achievement.

[01:39:05] **REINO:** Yes, I guess Joe Curran stayed in until he retired, too.

[01:39:11] **HOWARD:** That's true, quite recently.

[01:39:13] **REINO:** He died recently. Though he retired about seven or eight years ago.

[01:39:19] **HOWARD:** So Curran really waffled in his politics, and eventually turned on the left and did real nasty stuff.

Mass expulsions and everything else.

[01:39:29] **REINO:** And that was a big pension, \$200,000 a year. That's another thing with Bridges, to his credit, he didn't become wealthy on the job. Our wages were not as high as many other unions, very low, in fact, compared to other unions, for the job that he held. Guys on the Waterfront made more money than he made. Supercargo, walking bosses, things like that were part of his union.

[01:40:00] **HOWARD:** A lot of Bridges seems to come from that whole Wobbly background—a lot of the ILWU seems to fall into that.

[01:40:07] **REINO:** Well, I guess there were—

[01:40:09] **HOWARD:** Like the rotation in office, two-year terms, the extent of democracy, the equality between officers and members.

[01:40:18] **REINO:** And I'm sure the northwest ports had more Wobblies than we did San Francisco. I was reading in—who's that Wobbly that was shot in Utah?

[01:40:36] **HOWARD:** Oh, Joe Hill?

[01:40:37] **REINO:** Joe Hill. He was an organizer, a Wobbly organizer in San Pedro docks.

[01:40:42] **HOWARD:** Oh, is that right?

[01:40:43] **REINO:** Yeah.

[01:40:43] **HOWARD:** I didn't know that.

[01:40:44] **REINO:** Yeah, before—this was in 1917-18, around the World War.

[01:40:49] **HOWARD:** Oh is that right? Joe Hill was there?

[01:40:51] **REINO:** Joe Hill was there.

[01:40:52] **HOWARD:** I know there was a big strike in 1923 in Pedro that the Wobblies were involved in.

[01:40:58] **REINO:** That's probably when—well, when did he get—?

[01:41:00] **HOWARD:** I thought he was killed before that?

[01:41:01] **REINO:** I have [inaudible] of Wobbly books back there.

[01:41:04] **HOWARD:** Do you? How do you feel about the Wobblies, I mean they were all—?

[01:41:08] **REINO:** I think it was quite interesting, the facet of life of the labor movement, I think you had some—and really, I don't think they were that strong in—well, you know, how could I say, I was so young, you know? What kind of strength, but they were ship-disturbers. I mean, they kept their employers on their toes and wary.

[01:41:38] **HOWARD:** A lot of people seem to have a great deal of admiration for them. A lot of respect for them.

[01:41:45] **REINO:** Yeah, I think belatedly, now they do. But the public in general thought they were as bad as the communists were, when the communist scare was on.

[01:41:57] **HOWARD:** You think so? I guess it was around the First World War they were rounded up. Facing prosecution.

[01:42:04] **REINO:** Oh yes, and they were put in the camps, and I mean, the camps and prisons and things.

[01:42:09] **HOWARD:** That's true. The final set of questions I have may not be answerable, but I was looking at Local Ten, and in fact the whole west coast, and I was trying to say, “Well, who were the people who most like to support the left or the right?” In this case, Bridges or not Bridges—and one of my guesses was maybe the '34 men were the ones that were most loyal to Bridges, was that the case or not necessarily in your opinion?

[01:42:38] **REINO:** Not necessarily in San Francisco because there was a whole group of '34 men that was leaning for the AF of L, when the CIO thing came in.

[01:42:51] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:42:52] **REINO:** Came in, yes. But they stayed in the ILWU, they were smart enough not to leave, very few did leave. They were just out of jobs because they lived of their own volition.

[01:43:03] **HOWARD:** How about in the '50s, you know when these differences surfaced again in the union? Where did the '34 men stand in the relationship with Bridges or Kearny—who was the other guy? Selden?

[01:43:18] **REINO:** Osborne?

[01:43:18] **HOWARD:** No, no there was another guy who—?

[01:43:20] **REINO:** Callahan?

[01:43:21] **HOWARD:** No, it starts with a S? He was on the Blue Book slate, or the Blue Slate.

[01:43:26] **REINO:** Nelson?

[01:43:27] **HOWARD:** No, I think it started with an S. I could be wrong, it was some guy—like a [?Selden?] ? Somebody [?Selden?] ?

[01:43:38] **REINO:** Sours?



[01:43:39] **HOWARD:** He was a Bridges man, right? I can't think of his name. Martin Sullivan?

[01:43:47] **REINO:** Martin Callahan he was—supported Bridges.

[01:43:50] **HOWARD:** Must be somebody else.

[01:43:51] **REINO:** He was the one that defeated Kearny for president once or twice. Because, you see, this was like anything else, politically in a union, you were up one year and down the next. Right or left, you know? And the same people were there voting. Say Kearny lost to Callahan one year, and a couple years later he'd come back and he'd win from the same candidate.

[01:44:21] **HOWARD:** Huh. It's confusing to me. [laughs]

[01:44:26] **REINO:** Primarily men was interested in their work, not in the left or the right, I think, average working stiff. Of course there were others discussed the political ends and everything.

[01:44:38] **HOWARD:** Did the '34 men tend to support Bridges? Or Kearny? Or do you know?

[01:44:44] **REINO:** Well, Bridges was never a candidate against Kearny.

[01:44:48] **HOWARD:** Oh yeah, no.

[01:44:48] **REINO:** But there was Schmidt, I guess. It was split. It was split. I think the elections were pretty close.

[01:44:57] **HOWARD:** How about racially? Did the Blacks tend to support the left-wing or the right-wing during the '50s?

[01:45:06] **REINO:** On the surface, the visible surface, they supported Bridges, I think.

[01:45:14] **HOWARD:** Yeah, that's what most people have said. How about ethnic groupings? You've mentioned Scandinavian people supported you, generally.

[01:45:23] **REINO:** That was there in the earlier days of the union when they were. But that's when people came from the old country, or seamen from—foreign seamen stayed ashore here and went to work on the Waterfront. But those people either dead or retired and I think they're only two true Finns left on the Waterfront.

[01:45:43] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:45:43] **REINO:** Yeah, my son and—his mother is Finnish and I am Finnish—and one other fellow who came from Finland. I think the third one, he just retired last month.

[01:46:01] **HOWARD:** You must know Bjorne Halling?

[01:46:02] **REINO:** Bjorne Halling? Yeah, I liked him very much, yeah.

[01:46:05] **HOWARD:** It was tragic.

[01:46:08] **REINO:** One hell of a good worker. There was a guy that used to shake his head if the new guys weren't doing their work right—yeah, because he was a perfectionist, as far as longshore worker was concerned. Not only that he helped people do—learn the right way too.

[01:46:24] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I heard nothing but good things about him.

[01:46:27] **REINO:** Have you talked to Ken Austin? Did anybody direct him to you?

[01:46:31] **HOWARD:** Kenny Austin—the people have told me about him, but I never looked him up.

[01:46:35] **REINO:** Yeah, he was a seaman and a longshoreman.

[01:46:39] **HOWARD:** Oh is that right?

[01:46:40] **REINO:** Yeah, he had a falling out with [Harry] Lundeberg when he was in SUP [Sailor's Union of the Pacific], and I think they gave him a 99 year discharge from there. He came to the longshore.

[01:46:52] **HOWARD:** Who else can you recommend that would be worthwhile to talk to? I'd like to talk to some guy who's just a rank-and stiff, never held a union office, and—

[01:47:02] **REINO:** Excuse me, let me just get a list if any of them are. . .

[01:47:05] **HOWARD:** Okay, sure.

[Break in recording while Reino gets papers]

[01:47:10] **REINO:** Yeah, I think there are more longshore sons working down there, not as many working down there as there are in Pedro, primarily because I think many of them went on to school and to other jobs. Just recently we had a longshoreman son who was appointed to the state supreme court here.

[01:47:38] **HOWARD:** I didn't know that.

[01:47:39] **REINO:** New Black man, Governor [Jerry] Brown, just appointed to the—can't think of his name, just escaped me now. That's how poor my memory is. It'll come to me. And he was appointed to the state Supreme Court as a lawyer. He was a lawyer, and I think he was a judge over in East Bay side.

[01:48:02] **HOWARD:** That's interesting. You know I think one of the differences is San Pedro is kind of an isolated working-class community still, and so you're raised in that, you see the occupation of your father and going into it. San Francisco isn't like that anymore.

[01:48:15] **REINO:** No.

[01:48:16] **HOWARD:** There's no real, tight working-class neighborhoods here.

[01:48:19] **REINO:** No, no more. They're all spread out. You know, this neighborhood right now is the gay neighborhood. Castro area.

[01:48:25] **HOWARD:** Oh, that's what I thought. Bernal Heights is a little different.

[01:48:29] **REINO:** Well they bought all—their buying this property around here, so this one goes up for sale, the gays buy it.

[01:48:35] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I live in a gay neighborhood in Los Angeles, so I know the situation.

[01:48:39] **REINO:** That's alright, they don't bother us, the gays. Like everything else, the communists don't bother me, left-wingers, right-wingers.

[01:48:47] **HOWARD:** You're quite a character, I'll tell you that. Why were you so successful in office? You didn't suffer many defeats either.

[01:48:53] **REINO:** No, I didn't.

[Break in the recording for conversation off the record]

[01:48:58] **HOWARD:** Talking about why you were so successful.

[01:49:00] **REINO:** Yeah, I think I did a job for the members and for the union. And especially when I was handling the finances, I was—tried to run a tight ship. So I didn't want to spend money—more that was necessary. So I knew it wasn't my money, it was a union members' money, and our treasury was in their pockets, as they say. And a lot of my co-officers thought I was tight and things, but I think it went over with the membership when I made my reports and to the board of trustees and everything. Kept everything aboveboard.

[01:49:38] **HOWARD:** Let's talk about you being a likable guy. There was a lot of people who said that about you.

[01:49:44] **REINO:** They what?

[01:49:45] **HOWARD:** They said that you were a very likable guy.

[01:49:47] **REINO:** Yeah, I know. I had friends amongst the Blacks and the whites and anybody else, even the left and the right supported me. Even the Blacks, even my mortal enemies, which I think even my enemies, raised hell with me at times. And then that instance I was telling you about, they said I was “a real, damn good secretary treasurer.” I made it every time I ran. Then I was president for two years and tried to run the union on an even keel.

[01:50:21] **HOWARD:** What year again was that?

[01:50:22] **REINO:** ‘Sixty and ‘sixty-one.

[01:50:24] **HOWARD:** Right after the M&M Agreement, right?

[01:50:28] **REINO:** Yes. Had some tough times, and then I was business agent several times. So I was successful. But I think I did a good job, I think that was primarily why I was re-elected. I'm not a very capable speaker, so I know that I didn't sway them with my speeches or anything. [chuckles]

[01:50:53] **HOWARD:** I wouldn't put yourself down. I guess that applies for anyone, whether they're talking about Bridges or anyone.

[01:51:02] **REINO:** Yeah, you had to produce. They expected you to do a job there.

[01:51:08] **HOWARD:** Why'd you run for office?

[01:51:14] **REINO:** I liked it. I liked the involvement and even as soon as I got my book, I ran for investigating committee, which was a committee that was not very popular in the respective—they're always short of people even running for it. So I ran for it, and then the committee made me the secretary of the committee, and that was in 1940. After I've been a member for a year I guess. In 1940, and so from there, then I went to the executive board and ran for the executive board and was elected and participated in the union activities. I did, in the parades, and the marches, I did. Even as a member, prior to being an officer, I participated, and even as a permit man or whatever, activities we were permitted to. See, permit man was equivalent to what a B-man is now. So whatever we were allowed to participate in, I participated in it.

[01:52:19] **HOWARD:** And you told me earlier that you held every position in the union office—

[01:52:22] **REINO:** Except vice-president.

[01:52:25] **HOWARD:** That's quite remarkable.

[01:52:28] **REINO:** In fact, we used to have a secretary treasurer and we had—we used to have a recording secretary and a secretary-treasurer. In fact, I had both of those jobs. And we combined it for reasons of economy, and we made it the secretary treasurer—the recording secretary it was a financial—financial secretary and the secretary-treasurer was combined. So then that was secretary-treasurer. Although I had held, prior to that recording secretary, which only kept the minutes and collected some dues, and coordinated the committee works of the various committees of the union.

[01:53:15] **HOWARD:** Let me just ask one other question here. I'm sorry I keep saying it's the final question.

[01:53:19] **REINO:** That's alright.

[01:53:19] **HOWARD:** Okay, as I mentioned, my studies comparing the East and West Coasts. Do you have any thoughts at all on why the West Coast union should be so free of corruption and racketeering and be so sort of equalitarian, the way they distribute work and the equality of wages, the lack of discrimination of race and stuff like that and why the East should be just the opposite? Do you ever think about that?

[01:53:44] **REINO:** I think about it, and the reason is for one thing, most of the locals had the two-year rule, as I said earlier, that's one of things that keeps them—even if he's a popular member and [keeps a person] from perpetuating himself in office, where he could perform some shenanigans. And I think as far as International

officers, they're—they don't have the two-year rule, but I think primarily because they've all been honest trade unionists that's why. And none of them had come out wealthy, to my knowledge, compared to when you compare it to Teamsters' Union [International Brotherhood of Teamsters] , Machinists' Union [International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers] , and other—not they're not honest unions. But the officers make so much money and the ILA in the East Coast—well, we all know what their reputation is. Now, I know about it is, I've never been—I've never been on the Waterfront, I've never observed how they work there or anything.

[01:54:52] **HOWARD:** That's interesting because, [?Singer?] who's the president of the machinists—

[01:54:57] **REINO:** Yeah, I like him very much.

[01:54:58] **HOWARD:** Yeah, he talks—he claims to be a socialist, and drives around in his own private Learjet

[01:55:03] **REINO:** Does he? I didn't know that.

[01:55:06] **HOWARD:** Yeah, I think he's a good guy too, but it shows you the difference—

[01:55:09] **REINO:** At least he speaks out.

[01:55:11] **HOWARD:** Yeah, you wouldn't see that in the ILWU.

[01:55:13] **REINO:** No.

[01:55:14] **HOWARD:** There's a famous story where Bridges wanted a Cadillac agency in the early '50s, and he could've gotten a real cheap price on a Cadillac, you know it was less than a Ford, and Bridges said, "No, I couldn't drive around in a Cadillac. What would the members think?" Of course, Joe Ryan and those guys not only buy one Cadillac, they buy several of them.

[01:55:32] **REINO:** And have chauffeurs.

[01:55:33] **HOWARD:** And eat at the best restaurants and everything else.

I think you may be right, part of it is of course the two year rule, and the question is, you take back a step and say, well why did they put a two-year rule on the West Coast and not the East? You just keep pushing the—

[01:55:48] **REINO:** Well the East Coast never did have it I guess. You know, the port function—here port has been eliminated too. You know, I don't know. I think they all have it, the major ports.

[01:56:03] **HOWARD:** The major ports do.

[01:56:04] **REINO:** The port in Seattle and Pedro and here.

[01:56:08] **HOWARD:** It's interesting why they should accept that here. There's a number of things, in the '30s, the longshoremen on the West of course insisted on the coast-wide agreement—they never had a coast-wise

agreement until the '60s on the East Coast. They insisted on a hiring hall on the West Coast—they never had a hiring hall, still don't.

[01:56:23] **REINO:** Still don't, no.

[01:56:25] **HOWARD:** So there's a lot of differences—it's partly what you're saying, but it's really—

[01:56:30] **REINO:** The hiring hall plays a big difference in it too, where the work is rotated and—yes.

[01:56:37] **HOWARD:** Why don't you explain what you mean by that.

[01:56:39] **REINO:** Well, where the hours are equalized, the earnings are equalized to a degree, I think, more so in the earlier days than they are now, too. But even now, if you're in the hall, the gang hours are equalized, and each category—jitney driver—hours are equalized out of the hall. Winch driver, the hours are equalized. And the holdman, dockman, whatever categories there are. They all take their jobs in rotation, and that's what gives them the chance of keeping their earnings equivalent.

[01:57:18] **HOWARD:** And what kind of an impact do you think it had on union, you think?

[01:57:21] **REINO:** Oh, that's the whole key to the whole union, I think. It's the rotation of the work and the equalization of earnings and opportunity. And of course a lot of people don't make themselves available and they don't have earnings, but at least it gives the men the opportunities there for everyone to have the equal amount of work.

[01:57:40] **HOWARD:** Do you think that contributes to the democracy in the union?

[01:57:43] **REINO:** It does, but that's what—the thing is, the steady man bit and this is what I understand now, is one of the key problems of the union, with they are making, probably more earnings than the longshoremen working out of the hall.

[01:58:04] **HOWARD:** You know how much an average longshoreman makes nowadays?

[01:58:07] **REINO:** You mentioned it over the—no Osborne was telling me. I don't know, go ahead.

[01:58:12] **HOWARD:** \$30,000? You guys are—that's almost the labor aristocracy. Living comfortably. And a clerk makes \$40,000 and a foreman—

[01:58:24] **REINO:** Clerks—I don't think, I think you've got to bracket in the supercargoes. Everybody into that—when you say clerks, you see, the clerks are—the supercargoes are the highest paid supervisors and the clerks are the low-rung on the ladder. Three categories in a clerks union.

[01:58:46] **HOWARD:** Okay, foreman are a separate category, right?

[01:58:48] **REINO:** Foreman? I don't know how they—

[01:58:52] **HOWARD:** These are PMA the figures.

[01:58:53] **REINO:** Well, I don't know how they—

[01:58:54] **HOWARD:** And they have them broken down by I guess, working longshoremen, clerks—they call them—

[01:58:59] **REINO:** Yeah, well that includes supercargoes and supervisors. Because they're in one local.

[01:59:07] **HOWARD:** What are foreman then?

[01:59:09] **REINO:** Foreman are the—well, the walking bosses, I guess, would be the—Local Ninety-one, which is a supervise—it's a ship. Entire ship, one, or two, or three walking bosses.

[01:59:22] **HOWARD:** Yeah, and they're at \$50,000.

[01:59:23] **REINO:** And then there's gang bosses, which again are gang foremen, which make, I don't know how much they make now, maybe 25 cents more than the holdmen.

[01:59:31] **HOWARD:** Yeah, the union's been remarkably successful, there's no question about that.

[01:59:36] **REINO:** I think that's one reason why the International officers have the support they have too. I see in Pedro, one of the last dispatches that they voted down—was it Pedro voted down the new contract? I think this new agreement, one of the locals—

[01:59:54] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[01:59:55] **REINO:** One of the locals did, but it carried it coastwise. And the next close vote was in this port.

[02:00:02] **HOWARD:** What was issue here on the vote?

[02:00:05] **REINO:** Steady men, I think.

[02:00:06] **HOWARD:** Was it the steady men?

[02:00:06] **REINO:** It was steady men, yes.

[02:00:08] **HOWARD:** Yeah, that's interesting, because Pedro has been bucking the current for a long time. They did it on the M&M Agreement, and a few other things.

Okay, well, do you have any parting thoughts you want to say? About the union? Or your life, or anything like that?

[02:00:25] **REINO:** No, I think the union's in a healthy condition, might have financial problems as almost all that along the union's industry has too. So, I think they'll still be around for a while. And I think they've done, regardless of whether you're left or right, or middle-of-the-road, or what, the union has produced a living to our members as you indicated yourself with the figures. And also—if they're right, I have, I have some thoughts

about those figures—the accuracy of whether they might be blowing them up. Blowing them up for negotiations.

[02:01:07] **HOWARD:** Yeah, it's quite possible, I don't know how, but yeah. It's conceivable that something like that happened.

[02:01:16] **REINO:** It's been a healthy union I think. Let me say in closing too, why it's a progressive, militant, and an aggressive union—it's got to be. Because the employers would screw you to a fair-thee-well if it wasn't.

[02:01:31] **HOWARD:** Still you think they would?

[02:01:32] **REINO:** Still they would. They could. Think of the little penny ante [having little worth] things on the job, they try to cut corners and chisel, now, and even as I was down there.

[02:01:43] **HOWARD:** Is that right?

[02:01:43] **REINO:** Sure the employers do, they know they're damn well wrong. Somebody doesn't call to attention, they get by with it.

[02:01:52] **HOWARD:** Huh. Even after this so-called New Look in 1948?

[02:01:55] **REINO:** Even with this New Look—this New Look, this old, just look. Just close your eyes to it.

[02:02:03] **HOWARD:** Just difference surface? For the same old thing?

[02:02:06] **REINO:** Yes.

[02:02:07] **HOWARD:** Well, that's interesting. Okay.

[END PART FOUR]